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### REMARKS

The present case now has eleven (11) claims, Claims 1-9, 23, and 24, with Claims 1, 6, 23, and 24 being independent claims. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9 are rejected. Claims 5 and 8 have been indicated as allowable. Claim 23 and 24 are new.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,176,213 to Van Linden. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Linden. The Applicant has amended Claim 6 to indicate the use of "top and bottom sides." The Applicant believes that the amendment overcomes the rejection.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,595,833 to Gardner, et al. Gardner was described as teaching a fuel cell receptacle with a plurality of manifolds. A plurality of fuel stacks (24) was defined as a stack having individual ports, *i.e.*, distribution members on both opposite ends.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Element 24 shows a first module as opposed to a complete solid oxide fuel cell. The first module 24 includes passages for a first reactant while the second perpendicular module includes passages for a second reactant. *See* Figs. 6A-6D. This orientation does not appear to show a plurality of fuel cells including top and bottom sides and ports as is called for in the claims. Rather, Gardiner appears to show a perpendicular distribution system so as to supply each module with the first or the second reactant in a largely unidirectional fashion. <sup>Ⓟ</sup> No use of anything that can be considered a top or a bottom port of a fuel cell or a plurality of fuel cells appears to be shown in the reference.

The Applicant further traverses the rejection of Claim 2 for the reasons given above and for the reason that Gardner does not appear to show ports positioned on the corners of the fuel cells.

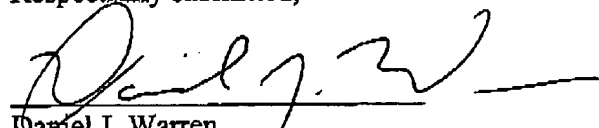
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The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependant Claim 3 for the reasons given above and for the reason that Gardner does not appear to show ports on both sides of the fuel cell.

### CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that it has responded to each matter raised in the Office Action. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8028.

Respectfully submitted,



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